

31st December, 1942.

1942/12B)  
12C)

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - DECEMBER, 1942.

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## PART I. PRIMARY & EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

### GENERAL.

Seasonal Conditions. Further widespread rains have benefited both agricultural and pastoral areas. Pastoral conditions are generally more favourable than for many seasons and stock feed is very plentiful.

Concern is still being expressed about pests - rabbits, grasshoppers and blowflies. Caterpillars have been reported on the North Coast.

### RURAL ORGANISATION.

The Commonwealth Government has created a Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with Commerce. The Minister is Mr. Scully.

A Rural Reconstruction Commission of four members has been appointed by the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction (Mr. Chifley) to submit plans for rural rehabilitation and for re-organisation of primary industries having regard to likely market opportunities in the post-war world.

### MEAT.

The Minister for Agriculture anticipates that at least 8,000 pigs will have to be destroyed on account of the swine fever outbreak in the County of Cumberland. Compensation will total approximately £40,000.

Mutton dehydration at the new Bourke plant is expected to commence in a few weeks. Other plants are nearing completion.

### FOOD SUPPLY.

Large potato supplies have become available and prices have fallen from the maximum of £17 15/- a ton recorded earlier to a range of £2 to £8 per ton. Approximately 3,000 Contract growers planted 8,000 acres of potatoes. The expected yield from this area was 30,000 tons. In 1941/42 total planting in N.S.W. was 17,700 acres but the yield was only 38,600 tons. Plentiful potato supplies have had a beneficial effect on the vitamin C problem in diets.

A plant to dry vegetables is to be installed shortly at Morpeth, an important growing centre.

Plans are being developed for next season's contract supplies of fresh and processed vegetables for Army use. Increased quantities of carrots, parsnips, beetroot, tomatoes and onions are required for processing but smaller quantities of cabbages, swedes and silver beet which when processed are not attractive to the troops. Much greater quantities of tomatoes are required for canning and for juice.

Members of the Women's Land Army actively engaged in rural industries in N.S.W. number 1,200. Labour used for the cherry harvest is being transferred to gather the prune crop. Girls are also engaged in pea-picking and a further extensive use of females may result from the organisation of vegetable growing.

The price of sulphate of ammonia has been increased by £5/10/- per ton to £18/10/-. This will bring the price up to that of nitrate of soda which is being released for agricultural purposes, and recoup some of the loss on the sale of nitrate of soda which costs more than £18/10/-.

### WOOL.

The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture has suggested a conference of Australian, South African and New Zealand woolgrowers to discuss post-war overseas marketing of wool. Woolgrowers in Australia have suggested asking representatives of wool interests in U.S.A. and Britain to attend such a conference. The London "Times" in a leading article, states that the question of Dominion import policy will inevitably crop up.

Since last November the price of tops on the New York futures market has declined and is now approximately 8% below the level when U.S.A. entered the war. Consumption of wool in U.S.A. is still high.

It is estimated that only 70% of the normal labour supply carried out the 1942 shearing of some 120m. sheep. This year the zone system has been extended to South Australia. It still does not apply in Queensland and Western Australia. There have been certain changes in the zones in N.S.W. to take into account special climatic and other factors.

Facilities for wool appraisements in country areas are being prepared. It is expected that at least one centre - Moree - will be available at the beginning of next season.

### WHEAT.

Stocks of old season's wheat in Australia are 97.75m. bus. of which 2.75m. bus. have been sold but not delivered. Sales during the year were 78m. bus. (local flour 32.5m., produce trade 14.75m., export wheat 21 m., export flour 9.5m.).

Deliveries to the new season's (1942-43) pool so far are 62.5m. bus. The Chairman of the Wheat Board states that the Australian crop may reach 138m. bus. The yield per acre in the large producing States is high but in N.S.W., and to a lesser extent, in Western Australia, there has been damage by rust and rain and caused much of the grain to sprout. The storage and disposal of this inferior wheat under present day conditions is difficult.

Payments to growers under the quota system are to be made as soon as possible. In cases where quotas require investigation an initial payment of 2/- per bus. may be made but final payments should be complete by March.

### DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

Butter output of N.S.W. factories in October, 1942 was 7.5m. lbs., about the same as in October, 1941. As forecast some months ago, production up to October showed little advance over last year but seasonal conditions are now much better and higher production in later months is anticipated.

#### BUTTER PRODUCED - N.S.W. FACTORIES.

'000,000 lbs.

Year	Whole Year.	Half-year Jan.-June	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
1939	120.5	62.7	7.7	6.6	6.4	7.3	10.2
1940	98.4	54.3	5.1	5.0	5.0	6.5	8.0
1941	98.7	59.6	5.2	4.6	4.6	5.9	7.5
1942	-	46.0	5.5	5.2	5.3	6.0	7.5

Pay to suppliers of cream to members of the North Coast Butter Factories Association was  $13\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. of commercial butter made from July, 1942 to November or approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. above last year. This is exclusive of deferred pay which for the period July-Dec. averaged  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. in 1941.

#### N.S.W. BUTTER - PAY TO CREAM SUPPLIERS.

#### BY CERTAIN NORTH COAST FACTORIES.

Pence per lb. of commercial butter made.

Year	Deferred Pay		July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
	July-Dec.	Jan.-June					
1934/35	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$	10	9	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$
1938/39	5/16	1.06	14	14	$12\frac{3}{4}$	12	$11\frac{1}{2}$
1939/40	$\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	12	$12\frac{1}{4}$	12	$11\frac{3}{4}$
1940/41	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	$13\frac{1}{4}$	13	13	$12\frac{5}{8}$	$12\frac{3}{4}$
1941/42	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$13\frac{1}{4}$	13	$12\frac{7}{8}$	$12\frac{5}{8}$	$12\frac{3}{8}$
1942/43	-	-	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$

/Quotas.....

Quotas of butter and cheese for local consumption in January, 1943 have been fixed at 44½ and 42½% respectively. Tables showing earlier months were published in B.S. 1942/8B and B.S. 1942/11B)

11C)

The £2m. subsidy for the dairy industry is to be distributed on a flat rate basis to producers of butter and cheese. Payments shortly will be made through butter factories covering deliveries of milk and cream since July 1, 1942. Calculations of amounts due will be made by the Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee.

An enquiry into milk distribution costs in Sydney is proceeding. Vendors are disputing the claim that zoning of deliveries reduced costs. When zoning was introduced, the retail price of milk was reduced 2d. per gallon.

Agreement has been reached between the N.S.W. and Commonwealth Governments with respect to a fodder assistance scheme. In respect of coastal farmers, advances up to 17/6 a ton will be paid on approved ensilage and assistance will be provided where possible in sinking pits or trench silos.

#### COAL.

It is estimated by the Minister for Mines that production in N.S.W. last year reached the high level of 12.3m. tons.

Coal production in N.S.W. during 1942 reached 12.3 million tons, an increase of 1.5 million tons over 1941. This compares with 11.8 million tons in 1941 and 11.5 million tons in 1940. The increase in production is attributed to the opening of new coalfields and the extension of existing fields. The coal produced is mainly bituminous and is used for domestic purposes, such as heating and lighting, and for industrial purposes, such as coke production. The coal is also exported to other countries, particularly Great Britain and Australia.

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Period	Production (in millions of tons)	Average Price (per ton)	Consumption (in millions of tons)	Exports (in millions of tons)
January - March	3.5	£1.50	3.5	0.5
April - June	3.8	£1.50	3.8	0.8
July - September	3.5	£1.50	3.5	0.5
October - December	3.8	£1.50	3.8	0.8

PART II. FINANCE & TRADE.

GENERAL.

A review of Commonwealth finances in B.S. 1942/12A indicated that the trend of war expenditure inferred that the Budget estimate (£440m.) would be substantially exceeded. Expenditure on the war in the period July - Dec. 1942 was £253m. During the next six months average monthly expenditure may be expected to exceed that in the period just closed.

In its first year of operation, the War Damage Commission collected approximately £7.25m. from insurance of property valued at some £2,750m.

Banking statistics were shown in tabular form in B.S. 1942/12A. In the Commonwealth Bank special war time deposits of the trading banks by 4th Jan., 1943 had increased £23.2m. from the October 1942 average. Other deposits had increased slightly but holdings of debentures, etc. and Government securities (incl. Treasury Bills) had increased by £28.5m.. Sterling Reserve & London money had risen from £73.3m. to £84.5m. The note issue on 4th Jan., 1943 was £124.1m. or nearly £31m. higher than it was on Jan. 5, 1942.

Trading bank deposits (current account) showed a further expansion of £10m. from Oct. to Nov., 1942. Advances declined £5.9m. and cash items £6.1m.. On the other hand, holdings of Treasury Bills increased by £9.3m., other Government securities £0.8m. and wartime deposits with the Commonwealth Bank £10.2m.

SHARE PRICES.

In four out of the five groups, indexes of share prices compiled by the Government Statistician showed increases in November, 1942. Relatively, the greatest rise was in public utility share prices but the most striking feature, by comparison with a few years ago, is the strongly upward trend of manufacturing and distributing companies' shares. The latter group is the only one in which the index of prices is higher than in March, 1937 and, with the pastoral and finance group, higher than August, 1939. The combined index for 75 companies was in November, 1942, at the same level as a year ago, before Japan entered the war (168), but was still below August, 1939 (174). The index of prices of 34 active shares (184) exceeded November last year and August, 1939 by two points.

Another feature of the market in recent months has been the rise in the index of prices of retailing companies' shares in spite of declining turnover.

The Sydney Stock Exchange Research Bureau's index of industrial share prices (1934=100) was 121.90 on November 30th, 1942 and 124.75 on December 31st. The prices of a very large number of shares have reached the fixed maximum levels.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of ordinary shares - excl. banks. Par value = 100.

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt Statistician).

Average for Month	Manufacturing & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral & Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1937 - Mar.	214	204	181	169	281	190 (a)	201
1939 - Aug.	213	168	156	118	264	174	182
1941 - Oct. - Nov.	221 216	173 167	142 142	126 123	251 249	172 168	186 182
1942 - Jan. June Sept. Oct. Nov.	199 184 213 216 221	154 146 156 159 163	136 117 124 126 131	116 116 126 128 128	236 216 238 242 243	157 147 162 165 168	166 157 179 181 184

(a) Highest point recorded.

BOND YIELDS & MORTGAGE RATES.

Bond yields in November, 1942 were slightly lower than in recent months. The strength of the market is illustrated by the over-subscription of the Austerity Loan which brought in £105m. including £82m. of new money, the greatest amount ever raised in one loan operation in Australia. Interest on the new bonds is  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  for 16 years and  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  for a 5 years' term.

Government loans raised in 1940 totalled £67m., in 1941 £70m. and in 1942 £168m. (excl. conversions). A record number of subscribers - 420,000 - contributed to the last loan.

The Metropolitan Board of Works (Melbourne) experienced the best response to date when it offered to convert a loan of £786,000 into 15 year securities at £3/8/9%.

The average weighted rates of interest on private first mortgages registered in the three months ended November, 1942 were at the same levels (rural securities 4.9%, urban securities 5.4%) as in October.

YIELD ON COMMONWEALTH BONDS & MORTGAGE RATES.

Period.	COMMONWEALTH BONDS			MORTGAGES. +	
	Taxed at full Commonwealth Rates.	Taxed at 1930 Rates.	Maturing in 10 years or more. Taxed at 1930 rates.	Rural.	Urban.
1939	x	3.87	3.92	5.2	5.6
1940	(9 mths.) 3.15	3.25	3.30	5.1	5.6
1941	3.17	2.95	3.10	4.9	5.5
1940-Nov.	3.18	3.02	3.11	5.1	5.5
1941-Nov.	3.18	2.94	3.13	4.9	5.5
1942-Jan.	3.22	2.92	3.04	5.0	5.5
June	3.22	2.93	3.13	4.9	5.4
Sept.	3.22	2.67	2.86	5.0	5.3
Oct.	3.22	2.70	2.87	4.9	5.4
Nov.	3.21	2.68	2.82	4.9	5.4

φ Last Wednesday in each month: Compiled by Commonwealth Bank.

+ Weighted average rate on private first mortgages registered in three months ended month shown.

x Not available.

BANK CLEARINGS.

Cheque clearings between Sydney banks in November, 1942 were £105 millions compared with £115m. a month earlier and £99.6m. a year earlier. The index of clearings for November was 135. In making comparisons with previous years, it should be borne in mind that no allowance has been made for rising price levels.

Clearings during the year 1942 in Melbourne slightly exceeded Sydney as a result of war time spending, particularly by Service departments. Usually clearings in Sydney are substantially greater than in Melbourne.

## INTER-BANK CLEARINGS - SYDNEY.

Excl. Treasury Bill Transactions.

Year	A M O U N T .		INDEX NUMBERS (Base:- Av. corresp. period 1926-30= 100).	
	November.	Eleven months,, Jan. - Nov.	Three months end NOVEMBER.	Calendar YEAR.
	£m.	£m.	Index	Index.
1938	82.7	854.3	102	101
1939	86.1	839.6	102	100
1940	93.5	974.7	114	113
1941	9.6	1,034.3	124	120
1942	105.0	1,126.8	135	-

(The index is adjusted to eliminate the effect of Special Government transactions, as well as Treasury Bills).

SAVINGS..

Savings bank deposits in N.S.W. at the end of November, 1942 were £104,930,000 and in Australia £305,927,000. The increases during the month were - N.S.W., £1,346,000; Aust., £4,476,000 - in each case less than the corresponding increases in October. As in last year, savings deposits were affected by War loan operations.

The increases of savings bank deposits in N.S.W. in the five months ended November, in each of the last three years were:- 1940, £3.0m.; 1941, £3.8m.; 1942, £10.4m.

During November sales of War Savings Certificates in Australia (approx. £784,000) were somewhat below the previous month although sales generally are stimulated by War Loan publicity. Net sales in N.S.W. in October, 1942 were £286,000.

SAVINGS BANKS - N.S.W.

	Aug. 1939	Nov. 1940	Oct. 1941	Nov. 1941	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1942
Amount of Deposits (£000);	86,957	85,106	91,314	91,499	103,583	104,930
No. of Accounts ('000);	1,315	1,341	1,381	1,389	1,431	1,444

SAVINGS - N.S.W.

Increase during month:-

Sept. 1939	Nov. 1940	Oct. 1941	Nov. 1941	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1942.
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£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
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Savings Bank Deposits: (-) 400	542	579	186	2,198	1,346
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War Savings Certificates: Ø --	225	149	207	286	286 (a)
(-) 400	767	728	393	2,484	1,632

Ø Net purchases (Sales less redemptions).

(-) Denotes decrease.

(a) October, 1942.

REAL ESTATE.

Real estate sales in November, 1942 were £1.94m., the highest figure recorded since April. The amount of mortgages registered in November, 1942 was slightly higher than in the three preceding months.

The value of real estate sales by the five principal Sydney agents showed a decline of 64% from 1941 to 1942.

REAL ESTATE SALES & MORTGAGES - N.S.W.

£ - Thousands.

Year	SALES			MORTGAGES. (a)				
	Monthly Average	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Monthly Average	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1938	3,118	3,079	3,111	2,671	2,247	2,085	2,153	2,565
1939	2,680	2,934	2,330	2,381	1,870	1,501	1,713	1,702
1940	2,588	3,149	2,885	2,430	1,375	1,240	1,144	1,259
1941	2,770	2,941	3,013	2,548	1,303	1,571	1,413	1,022
1942	1,850*	1,616	1,514	1,942	677*	517	423	530

(a) Incl. Renewals.

\* Av. ten months Jan. - Oct.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Sales at wholesale in N.S.W. during October, 1942 were £22.1m. compared with £19.6m. a month earlier and £18.3m. a year earlier. These figures cover taxable and exempt goods. Sales of goods in the second category have been rising, reflecting increased sales to Government departments. With regard to the taxable class, comparison of sales with previous years is difficult due to changes in goods taxed. Rationing and general shortage of supplies are having their effect. Employment in wholesale trade is shown on a later page.

WHOLESALE TRADE, N.S.W.

Sales by traders registered under Sales Tax Acts.

Total, taxable and exempt goods.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942.
Sales - £ million.					
<u>Calendar Year</u>	193.0	200.3	202.8	229.0	---
March Qr.	45.7	45.6	47.9	50.7	57.6
June Qr.	48.7	48.1	49.8	59.6	58.8
Sept. Qr.	49.6	55.1	53.7	59.1	59.6
<u>Month of Aug.</u>	15.3	16.8	17.2	20.4	20.9
" " Sept.	17.5	19.4	17.5	21.6	19.6
" " Oct.	15.7	19.2	18.5	18.3	22.1

RETAIL TRADE.

Sales at retail by a group of Sydney stores during October, 1942 were 17.3% below last year. Only in August of the six months May - October did sales exceed last year's. The value of stock is declining. Compared with the corresponding month of the previous year the value of stock held was +2.1% in October, 1942, probably indicating a reduced volume when changes in prices are taken into account. The trend of the figures indicates inability to replace stocks. The values of stocks of boots and shoes and men's and boys' wear are much below the previous year and this applies also to hardware, musical instruments and sports and travel goods.

Employment in the reporting Sydney stores in October, 1942 was 15.1% below the previous year.

RETAIL TRADE - SYDNEY.

Percentage increase from corresponding period of the previous year.

Period	Net Value of Sales.	Value of Stock.	Wages & Salaries Paid.	Number of Employees.
1939	+ 2.4	+ 2.0	+ 2.6	+ 0.9
1940	+ 6.3	+ 17.0	+ 4.0	+ 1.9
1941	+ 14.6	+ 8.0	+ 9.0	+ 4.0
Sept. Qtr. - 1941	+ 15.4	+ 10.4	+ 10.9	+ 4.1
" " 1942	(-) 6.0	+ 11.1	(-) 10.0	(-) 13.7
1942 - Mar.	+ 25.9	+ 11.5	+ 4.6	+ 0.6
June	(-) 19.1	+ 10.5	(-) 1.7	(-) 10.9
Aug.	+ 5.7	+ 13.4	(-) 8.5	(-) 12.5
Sept.	(-) 7.0	+ 5.9	(-) 9.5	(-) 13.3
Oct.	(-) 17.3	+ 2.1	(-) 13.0	(-) 15.1

(-) Denotes decrease.

(Supplied by Retail Traders' Association in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank).

Relaxation of present clothes ration scales is unlikely. Cotton goods are the biggest concern of supply authorities.

There is no change in the tobacco quota for January, 1943. Retailers will receive one-twelfth of their purchases in the year ended September, 1940, reduced by 25%. Special provision is being made for districts affected by population movement. Further restrictions on imports have been announced. Total prohibitions include dates, mineral waters, sporting guns, etc. Other items have reduced quotas or have been brought under administrative control.

## PART III - INDUSTRIES, ETC.

EMPLOYMENT.

Estimated total number of non-rural wage and salary earners employed in N.S.W. (excl. household domestics) in October, 1942 was 764,400. There was an increase of 2,200 over September, viz: an increase of 4,000 in females and a decrease of 1,800 in males. The percentage of females in the defined employment group was 30.2 in October, 1942 compared with 27.4% a year earlier.

Private employers continue to lose male employees to the Services. The number of females employed by Government and semi-government authorities is expanding rapidly.

A survey is being made of man-power requirements in 1943. The Minister for War Organisation of Industry expects a transfer of 200,000 persons to essential work.

To obtain reinforcements for the Services, available men in classes 1, 2 & 3 (18-35 single, 35-45 single, 18-35 married) in non-essential industries are being called-up and an intensive examination of men in these groups working in protected establishments is being made. It is likely that the call-up will be extended beyond 40 years in Class 4 (married 35-45).

NEW SOUTH WALES.ESTIMATED TOTAL NON-RURAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS EMPLOYED (EXCL. HOUSEHOLD DOMESTIC)  
(Includes Civil Constructional Corps).

End of Month.	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Government (C/wealth, State & Local).	Private Employers	Total	Government (C/wealth State & Local).	Private Employers	Total	Government (C/wealth State & Local).	Private Employers	Total
1939-July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.1
1941-July	141.5	419.5	561.0	21.7	186.8	208.5	163.2	606.3	769.1
Sept.	143.4	426.7	570.1	22.3	189.8	212.1	165.7	616.5	782.1
Oct.	143.7	425.4	569.1	22.7	192.1	214.8	166.4	617.5	783.9
Nov.	144.3	425.1	569.4	23.0	194.8	217.8	167.3	619.9	787.1
1942-Mar.	148.9	405.3	554.2	25.0	197.1	222.1	173.9	602.4	776.3
July	154.8	384.3	539.1	28.1	197.0	225.1	182.9	581.3	764.2
Aug.	154.6	383.0	537.6	28.8	197.4	226.2	183.4	580.4	763.8
Sept.	153.3	381.9	535.2	30.1	196.9	227.0	183.4	578.8	762.6
Oct.	153.6	379.8	533.4	31.7	199.3	231.0	185.3	579.1	764.4

(Excludes persons on military leave but includes Civil Constructional Corps)

In a statement on 7th January, Mr. Curtin said: "There can be no doubt that the existing programme for the expansion of the Services and of defence production demand for their fulfilment an intensification rather than a slackening of the restrictive policy pursued in the past" ... "During the forthcoming months it will be necessary further to restrict the volume of goods available to the civilian population."

The trend of employment in N.S.W. in certain broad industrial classifications is shown below. The numbers shown do not represent the total wage and salary earners employed in the industries. Manufacturing employment is shown in another table.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED BY EMPLOYERSON PAY ROLL TAX RETURNS.

(Thousands).

Employees recorded by employers whose principal activity is:

Last Day in Month.	Mining & Quarrying.	Building & Construc-	Transport (excl. shipping)	Retail Trade.	Wholesale Trade	Other Commerce & Finance(b)	Personal Service (excl. household domestics). (c)							
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
July	21.7	0.1	20.5	0.5	60.7	2.7	31.9	31.8	29.1	10.0	20.9	9.8	16.3	20.3
Sept.	21.8	0.2	20.4	0.5	61.5	2.8	31.8	31.6	29.2	10.6	22.2	10.0	16.8	21.1
Oct.	21.5	0.2	19.5	0.5	62.0	2.9	31.5	32.3	29.6	10.9	22.4	10.2	16.8	21.4
Nov.	21.7	0.2	19.3	0.5	62.0	3.0	32.1	33.8	29.3	11.1	21.6	10.5	16.7	21.5
Mar.	21.2	0.2	19.9	0.5	62.3	3.3	28.5	33.1	27.6	10.0	18.4	11.3	15.1	21.5
June	21.1	0.2	18.2	0.5	62.4	3.4	25.6	32.6	25.4	11.2	17.4	11.6	13.5	21.4
Aug.	21.2	0.2	16.5	0.5	62.7	3.6	24.4	31.9	25.0	11.4	16.9	11.7	13.0	21.6
Sept.	21.1	0.2	15.5	0.5	62.8	3.6	24.0	31.6	25.6	11.6	17.1	11.7	12.7	21.5
Oct.	21.2	0.2	15.5	0.5	62.8	3.8	23.6	31.8	24.9	11.5	17.3	11.7	12.7	21.7

✓ Pay-Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (except C/wealth Govt., Charities etc.) whose pay-roll exceeds £20 per wk.

- (a) Excl. large numbers employed on Construction by Govt. authorities.  
 (b) Incl. wool and produce brokers, banks, insurance and commerce  
 (c) Incl. hotels, restaurants, entertainment, professional and personal service.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of persons employed in factories in N.S.W. (incl. working proprietors) was 300,400 in October, 1942. The net increase during the month was 1,400; males decreased by 400 and females increased by 1,800.

The chief upward movements were in the metal industries (+800 employees), food drink and tobacco (+700), miscellaneous factories (+200). Employment was less in October than in September, 1942 in bricks, pottery and glass, clothing and wood-working. Paper and printing and textiles showed little change.

N.S.W. - FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

(Including Working Proprietors).

Period	NO. OF EMPLOYEES (Thousands)									Index Numbers (1938/39 = 100)		
	1938/39			1941/42*			1942/43*			1940/41	1941/42	1942/43*
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.			
	166.2	61.1	227.3	210.8	76.5	287.3	214.3	83.3	297.6	110	126	130
	166.3	61.8	228.1	214.9	77.1	292.0	214.7	84.3	299.0	111	128	131
	166.5	62.3	228.8	215.3	77.9	293.1	214.3	86.1	300.4	113	128	131
	166.2	62.2	228.4	215.5	78.1	293.6				116	128	
	167.0	62.0	229.0	215.8	80.8	296.6				121	130	
	166.9	60.4	227.3	214.4	81.3	295.7				123	129	
Whole Year	167.2	61.6	228.8	214.5	78.7	293.2	-	-	-	116	128	

\* Subject to revision.

The trend of factory employment in Australia is shown in the following figures which were released recently:-

### AUSTRALIA - FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

(Thousands).

	<u>GOVT. (a)</u>	<u>OTHER.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1938/39 Av.	10.1	532.1	542.2
1939/40 Av.	16.9	547.0	563.9
1940/41 Av.	41.5	586.4	627.9
1941/42 Av. *	79.8	614.7	694.5
July, 1942 *	109.3	595.7	705.0
Sept., 1942 *	113.1	593.7	706.8
Oct., 1942 *	114.8	-	-

\* Subject to revision.

(a) Includes annexes attached to private factories and certain private aircraft and shipbuilding establishments engaged wholly on Government work.

The INDEX OF CONSUMPTION OF GAS & ELECTRICITY (Sydney) was 163 for November, 1942. This was 2 points below the previous month but 11 points above November, 1941.

<u>INDEX OF GAS &amp; ELECTRICITY</u>	<u>Av. 1939</u>	<u>Av. 1941</u>	<u>Nov. 1941</u>	<u>Nov. 1942.</u>
<u>CONSUMPTION. (Av. 1929-31 = 100)</u>	131	148	152	163

The gas supply was restricted in the greater part of Sydney for a short period during November, 1942, owing to industrial dissension.

### GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

A high level of earnings and working surplus is shown in the Government railway operating results for October, 1942 and the first four months of the financial year. Passenger and goods traffic are at high levels.

### N.S.W. GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Year	MONTH OF OCTOBER.				FOUR MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER.			
	Tonnage of Goods & Livestock	Earnings	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses	Passenger Journeys	Tonnage of goods & Livestock	Earnings	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses	Passenger Journeys.
	'000	£'000	£'000	Mill.	'000	£'000	£'000	Mill.
1939	1,405	1,805	618	15.8	5,751	6,875	2,159	59.7
1940	1,644	2,084	791	16.2	6,808	8,142	3,192	62.6
1941	1,667	2,324	813	18.1	6,022	8,627	2,843	70.5
1942	1,729*	2,997	1,177	19.3	6,804	11,713	3,922	76.3

\* Excluding interest, sinking fund, exchange etc.  
Interest chargeable in 1941-42 was £5,389,116 and sinking fund, exchange etc. was £1,180,757.

\* Partly estimated.

GOVT. TRAMS & OMNIBUSES.

During the month of October, 1942 passenger journeys in trams and omnibuses in the Sydney metropolitan area were 37.1m. compared with 38.9m. in October last year. Nevertheless traffic is at a high level. Passengers carried in the four months - July - Oct. exceeded the 1939 figure by 34 millions or 30%. Higher earnings have been more than absorbed by increased working expenses.

Omnibus-miles run in the metropolitan area have been reduced, the reduction in October compared with last year was 9.2%. In the Newcastle area, Governmental omnibus-miles increased 36% in the same period. The overall reduction was 4.3%.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS & OMNIBUSES -SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

Year	MONTH OF OCTOBER.			FOUR MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER.				
	Earnings £000	Working Expenses £	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses £	Passenger Journeys A	Earnings £000	Working Expenses £	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses £	Passenger Journeys A
1939	368	310	58	31.2	1,428	1,235	193	122
1940	400	341	59	34.2	1,504	1,254	250	129
1941	469	382	87	41.6	1,762	1,459	303	156
1942	454	403	51	40.3	1,823	1,624	199	160

Figures from N.S.W. Exclusive of interest, sinking fund, exchange and current depreciation (£605,000 in 1941/42).

✓ Excl. Sydney Harbour Bridge section trips.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

Although the trend of motor vehicle registrations has been downward, there was an increase of 500 in the number registered at the end of November, 1942 over total registrations at 30th October. The decline in registrations during the war has been relatively greatest in respect of motor cycles.

N.S.W. MOTOR VEHICLES ON REGISTER & NEW REGISTRATIONS.

Number registered -	Aug. 1939	Nov. 1941	Sept. 1942	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1942.
Cars ('000)	216.6	190.7	170.3	170.3	170.8
Lorries ('000)	77.6	75.3	70.8	70.7	70.9
Cycles ('000)	24.0	19.3	15.0	14.9	14.8
Total ('000)	329.2	297.7	267.3	267.1	267.6
(incl. other)					

New Vehicles Registered -Avg. Weekly Number:

Cars and Cabs.	322	43	16	21	18
Lorries and Vans.	146	52	7	4	5

BUILDINGS COMMENCED.

Only 22 houses were commenced in the Metropolitan Water Board Area in November, 1942 compared with 634 a year earlier. Nearly all construction consists of "business premises" which include factories.

BUILDINGS COMMENCED -- METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD AREA.

Period	Dwelling Houses (excl. Flats.) No.	VALUE OF BUILDINGS COMMENCED - £'000						
		Dwelling Houses.	Flats.	Business Premises (a)	Miso.	T O T A L .		
						City	Suburbs	Total.
1938	7,457	6,001	2,481	3,496	564	2,007	10,535	12,542
1939	7,341	5,967	1,855	3,130	955	1,800	10,107	11,907
1940	7,161	6,157	2,341	2,795	1,581	1,545	11,329	12,874
1941	7,177	6,556	2,450	1,738	1,074	706	11,112	11,818
1941-Nov.	634	547	162	83	31	26	797	823
1942-Jan.	334	294	57	66	99	13	503	516
June	30	19	-	775	48	81	761	842
Sept.	31	142	8	149	72	14	357	371
Oct.	19	16	-	131	94	16	225	241
Nov.	22	11	2	171	10	39	155	194

(a) Includes factories.